

made to induce the president to withhold Bristow's report, or so much of it as relates to the former administration."

**I**N THE DEATH OF WILLIAM E. H. LECKY, the historian, an interesting and well-known character was removed from the world's stage. Referring to this man, a writer in the Philadelphia Public Ledger says: "The three historians of the Victorian era, who seem more or less associated together in the American mind, are Justin McCarthy, James Bryce and William Lecky. The last, and possibly the most distinguished, meant decidedly less to popular comprehension here than McCarthy, with his 'History of Our Own Times,' and Bryce, with his 'History of the American Commonwealth.' As a historian Lecky lacked the imagination of McCarthy and the narrative gift of Bryce, but he brought to his work more learning than either; his researches were always thorough; he wrote logically and endeavored to present truth with self-evident value rather than employ persuasion and the story teller's art. He was the same age as Mr. McCarthy, and was Mr. Bryce's senior by eight years."

**W**ILLIAM EDWARD HARPOLE LECKY was born at Newton Park, within the county of Dublin, March 28, 1838. He received his education from private tutors at Cheltenham college and Trinity college in Dublin where he graduated in 1859 and where four years later he received his master's degree. Young Lecky at once devoted himself to literary pursuits which, even as an undergraduate, had found expression in an anonymous volume entitled "Leaders of Public Opinion in England." Referring to this publication, the writer in the Public Ledger says: "This book, written with much simplicity and directness; was widely read in Ireland and England; its conclusions were locally viewed in the light of prophecy; in 1871 it was republished with the author's own name, and probably the last work that he did was to write an introduction to a new edition, and to augment and revise the original text for publication in England and America this year. Between 1860 and 1875 Lecky wrote much for the reviews, principally treating of historical topics in a new light, or discussing the fundamental principles of contemporaneous political movements. During this period he published in book form the 'History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe' (1861-1865), and 'History of European Morals from Augustus to Charlemagne' (1869). The first of these works founded his reputation as a scholar and thinker; the second confirmed it."

**I**N 1875, LECKY BEGAN TO PUT INTO COHERENT form a mass of material dealing with the history of the eighteenth century. The Public Ledger writer says that although England was the central theme the material practically covered the history of civilization for the period, describing the forces which contributed to make the England of the nineteenth century, whether those forces had their initiative in England itself or on the continent or in America. Publication began with two volumes in 1878. Volumes three and four appeared in 1882; five and six in 1887 and seven and eight in 1890. On this work Lecky's reputation as a historian will undoubtedly rest. It is called "The History of England in the Eighteenth Century." A wide and almost popular circulation was given Lecky's "Democracy and Liberty," which was published in 1896, and dealt with political problems and movements of the day. It is impossible to say, however, whether the book was most read because of its instructive, inspiring nature, or from the fact that it attempted to "show up" Gladstone. He was elected member of parliament for Dublin university in 1896. He became prominent in the councils of the new liberal-unionist party, and was alert and active on the floor of the house. Four years ago he published a philosophical volume, rich with impressions and keen observations, and called it "The Map of Life, Conduct and Character." Lecky once tried poetry, and published a volume of verses. It revealed him, however, rather a master of didactic prosody than a poet.

**A**N INTERESTING TEST IS BEING MADE by the New York Central railroad. F. W. Dunnell of West Warren, Mass., is the inventor of a leather cross-tie that is designed to take the place of sleepers made of wood. A Springfield, Mass., correspondent of the New York Mail and Express, referring to Mr. Dunnell's invention,

says: "While studying the art of paper making, Mr. Dunnell learned that there was a scarcity of lumber in the country and that the railroads used annually 120,000,000 ties for renewals alone. Ties of steel, iron, glass, stone and of grass and sawdust composition had been made, but there were objections to all of these. So he set to work and finally hit upon a formula which seems to answer the purpose. In the manufacture of his cross-tie, which weighs 125 pounds, the scrap leather from shoe shops is taken into a disintegrator, ground very fine, subjected to a refining process and molded. The tension of the molding machine can be so regulated that ties hard enough to take a spike or ties through which a spike cannot be driven can be turned out. The three great essentials in a cross-tie are apparently found in this leather sleeper, for it is guaranteed to hold a spike, the fishplate will not splinter it, and it will not rot. It is expected to stand service for 35 years. Sample ties put down 28 months ago in the West Springfield freight yard of the Boston & Albany road do not show the least wear. Roadmaster Sullivan, of the Boston & Albany, says the spikes hold as well as when first driven instead of working loose, as in the wooden ties. The ordinary chestnut tie now in use must be replaced every two years."

**A**N ELABORATE UNIFORM SCHEME HAS been devised for White house employes, and the Washington correspondent for the New York World says that when this scheme is in full swing, the duties and relative importance of every employe will be indicated by his clothes. The opinion is expressed by this correspondent that if public ridicule and popular sentiment do not force the president to either call Secretary Loeb off or to modify his plans, the men in the White house will blaze with all the glory of the flunkies at European courts when the social season opens. Some idea of this plan may be obtained by this correspondent's explanation that "the uniform of the eight messengers at the executive offices, who were the first to be put in livery, is of about the same shade of blue as the ordinary policeman's. The coat is single-breasted, box style, with shining nickel buttons. The trousers have a stripe of black braid down the outside of each leg. The ushers and doorkeepers at the executive offices will be the next to don the uniforms prescribed by Mr. Loeb, with the tacit approval of Mr. Roosevelt. As they outrank the messengers they will have double-breasted coats, with two rows of shining buttons. The trousers will be the same in style as those worn by the messengers and the cloth will be of the same color in both uniforms. The liveries will show more gay colors as they ascend the scale and be cut in more fashionable style. The ushers and servants at the White house will be much more brilliantly attired than the men at the executive offices, where there are no social functions and nothing but business to attend to."

**I**T SEEMS THAT THE UNIFORM SCHEME established by Mr. Roosevelt's secretary is not a new one. The Washington correspondent to the New York World says: "John Addison Porter, secretary to President McKinley, was another who tried to make the White house look like a foreign court. He ordered Captain Loeffler, the president's doorkeeper, who is an officer in the army, to appear in his dress uniform. Mr. McKinley spotted Loeffler when he opened the door the first time and asked why he was in uniform. Captain Loeffler referred him to Secretary Porter, who said he thought it would look more dignified to have all of the attendants uniformed. Mr. McKinley was very angry. 'This is a republic,' said Mr. McKinley, 'not a monarchy. Send Loeffler home to change his clothes.' Until Mr. Loeb's advent no one since then has had the courage to suggest uniforms at the White house."

**A**TTO RNEY GENERAL KNOX HAS DELIVERED an opinion in the Littauer case. The attorney general holds that "no part of the consideration paid by the government is subject to a demand for repayment," and it is therefore taken for granted that the proceeding against Mr. Littauer will be dropped. The Washington correspondent for the New York Times, referring to the attorney general's opinion, says: "Secretary Root asked the department of justice whether any further action was called for on the part of the government, and upon this point the attorney general says: 'By "any further action" you mean, I presume, criminal action. There is no occasion, however, for me to determine whether the trans-

action called in question, and which you say is the only one wherein there is any evidence of violation of law, presents sufficient ground for a criminal prosecution under section 3739 of the revised statutes, since the statutory period of limitation within which such a prosecution could be brought elapsed more than a year ago. No useful purpose, therefore, would be subserved by such determination. An affirmative opinion could not be followed by a vindication of the law; a negative one might be regarded as an affirmation of the validity and propriety of methods of dealing with the government in cases where, after all, the form of the transaction is not to be so much considered as its substance."

**T**HE ISTHMIAN CANAL QUESTION WILL very soon be brought to public attention and it is probable that the entire question will be fought out again on the old claim that the Nicaraguan route should be adopted. The Washington correspondent for the New York World is authority for the statement that a movement is on foot whereby Colombia will declare void the law extending to the Panama Canal company the franchise from 1894 to 1910 and confiscate the property with the idea of turning it over to a syndicate headed by Germans. It is pointed out that in that event, France probably would insist that the extension be recognized and might adopt coercive measures against Colombia. The Hay-Herran treaty recognizes the validity of the extension and the administration, it is said, could not object to any pressure exerted on Colombia by France. At the same time, it is explained that there would be a powerful element in the senate which would like to see the franchise forfeited so that this country could deal direct with Colombia. It seems to be taken for granted that President Roosevelt has no disposition to exercise his prerogative in making a choice as to routes, and it is predicted that Senator Morgan of Alabama will introduce a resolution calling upon the president to discharge his duty under the Spooner law and to immediately proceed to the construction of the canal along the Nicaraguan route.

**A**N INTERESTING DESCRIPTION OF THE way in which the British museum was established is given by a writer in the Philadelphia Public Ledger in this way: "The British museum is to be extended at a cost of \$1,000,000—which will not be raised by lottery like the \$500,000 with which that vast treasure house was begun. Of that lottery, authorized in 1753, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the lord chancellor and the speaker of the house of commons were the managers and trustees. The amount was \$1,500,000, raised by \$15 tickets, to provide \$1,000,000 for prizes and \$500,000 for the purchase of the Sloane collections and the Harleian library and for cases, house room and attendants. The operations of one 'Peter Leheup, Esq.' says the London Chronicle, made the lottery notorious. He fraudulently 'cornered' the tickets, 6,000 or so of them passing by his aid to a Sampson Gideon, who sold them at a premium. An inquiry, instituted by the house of commons, resulted in the prosecution by the attorney general of Leheup. The penalty was a fine of £1,000, but this was by no means excessive, as £40,000 was Leheup's estimated profits from the fraud."

**A**NOTHER INTERESTING TOPIC OF DISCUSSION in England these days is the work that is being done by the recently appointed home secretary, the Rt. Hon. Aretas Akers-Douglas. A cablegram to the Chicago Chronicle, under date of London, September 5, says: "In his capacity as head of the department of the government which deals with criminals, Mr. Akers-Douglas has just laid before parliament a scheme regarding the treatment of wrong-doers which he hopes will solve a problem that has been for years agitating the minds of his predecessors. He is going to try and reform the criminal classes so as to make them both within and without the prison useful citizens. Hitherto prisoners, irrespective of their antecedents, who were sentenced to penal servitude; that is, any term involving confinement for over two years, were put to such unprofitable occupations as picking oakum or breaking stones. The secretary feels that all prisoners are not hopeless cases, hence his new scheme. Young men serving their first period are to be kept under special observation and if it is found that the criminal instinct is not strongly developed in them they will be taught some useful trade which may help them to become respectable citizens on their release."